

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2 and 3 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend claims 1, 7 and 19, as follows, with a marked-up copy of the amended claim being included in the Appendix attached hereto:

1. (Four Times Amended) A method of manufacturing a ceramic composite, the method comprising:

preparing at least two porous ceramic bodies to be bonded together, each of the at least two porous ceramic bodies having a bonding surface and a porosity of 15 to 70%, each of the at least two ceramic bodies being formed of a calcium phosphate-based compound, and the at least two porous ceramic bodies having a different porosity from each other;

FI preparing a slurry in which primary particles of a bonding ceramic are dispersed, the bonding ceramic being formed of the same material as that of each ceramic body, said slurry being synthesized by merely adding a phosphoric compound to a calcium compound slurry;

applying the slurry to the bonding surface of at least one of the ceramic bodies to be bonded;
and

sintering the ceramic bodies between which the slurry has been interposed to obtain fusing and growing of the primary particles of a bonding ceramic in the slurry during the sintering and bonding of the at least two ceramic bodies together so as to provide an anchoring effect between the ceramic bodies due to a combination of the porous ceramic bodies and the bonding ceramic.

F² 7. (Twice Amended) The method of manufacturing the ceramic composite as claimed in claim 4, wherein the calcium phosphate-based compounds include hydroxyapatite.

19. (Thrice Amended) A method of manufacturing a ceramic composite for a biocompatible material, the method comprising:

F³ preparing at least two porous ceramic bodies to be bonded together, each of the at least two porous ceramic bodies having a bonding surface and a porosity of 15 to 70%, and the at least two porous ceramic bodies having a different porosity from each other;

preparing a slurry in which primary particles of a bonding ceramic are dispersed, said slurry containing no organic components therein for preventing elution of organic components into a human body ;

applying the slurry to the bonding surface of the at least one of the ceramic bodies to be bonded; and

sintering the ceramic bodies between which the slurry has been interposed to obtain fusing and growing of the primary particles of a bonding ceramic in the slurry during the sintering and bonding of the at least two ceramic bodies together so as to provide an anchoring effect between the ceramic bodies due to a combination of the porous ceramic bodies and the bonding ceramic.

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, claims 2 and 3 will be canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and claims 1, 7 and 19 will be amended, whereby claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12-20 will remain pending. Claims 1 and 19 are independent claims.